

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of removing contamination from a Fischer-Tropsch derived hydrocarbon stream, the method comprising:
 - a) conducting a Fischer-Tropsch process using a catalyst comprising cobalt to produce a Fischer-Tropsch derived hydrocarbon stream;
 - a) b) passing the Fischer-Tropsch derived hydrocarbon stream to a treatment zone;
 - b) c) providing an ion exchange medium comprising a crosslinked, ion exchanging polymeric resin within the treatment zone;
 - e) d) contacting the Fischer-Tropsch derived hydrocarbon stream with the ion exchange medium within the treatment zone to remove contamination comprising ~~at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, Co, Ti, Fe, Mo, Na, Zn, Si, and Sn~~ from the Fischer-Tropsch derived hydrocarbon stream, and
 - ~~d)~~ e) removing a purified stream from the treatment zone.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymeric resin is a strong-acid exchange resin.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymeric resin is a styrene-divinylbenzene copolymer.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the ion exchange medium in the contacting step has sulfonium functional groups.
- 6 – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the contamination originates from upstream processing equipment.
15. (Canceled)
16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the size of the contamination is such that the contamination may be passed through a 1.0 micron filter.
17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the contacting step is performed as a batch process.
18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the contacting step is performed as a continuous process.
19. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the step of filtering the Fischer-Tropsch derived hydrocarbon stream.
20. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the step of distilling the Fischer-Tropsch derived hydrocarbon stream.
21. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the step of passing the purified stream to a hydroprocessing step.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the contacting step substantially avoids plugging of catalyst beds in the hydroprocessing reactor.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of removing contamination from a Fischer-Tropsch derived hydrocarbon stream, the method comprising:
- a) passing a syngas to a Fischer-Tropsch reactor employing a cobalt catalyst to produce a Fischer-Tropsch derived hydrocarbon stream;
 - b) filtering the Fischer-Tropsch derived hydrocarbon stream to produce a filtered hydrocarbon stream;
 - c) passing the filtered hydrocarbon stream to a treatment zone;
 - d) providing an ion exchange medium comprising a crosslinked, ion exchanging polymeric resin within the treatment zone;
 - e) contacting the filtered hydrocarbon stream with the ion exchange medium within the treatment zone to remove contamination comprising ~~at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, Co, Ti, Fe, Mo, Na, Zn, Si, and Sn~~ from the filtered hydrocarbon stream;
 - f) removing a purified stream from the treatment zone; and
 - g) passing the purified stream to a hydroprocessing reactor.